

We were led into war as a divided nation and today we are even more divided. A successful withdrawal from Iraq can only be helped if Congress and the Bush Administration work to bring unity at home. In a hopeful sign, that kind of unity was on display when the Senate passed with overwhelming bipartisan support a resolution requiring accountability by the president in Iraq, and the House should, at a minimum, do the same.

HONORING JANIE WALENTA

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the leadership and achievements of Janie Walenta, former president of the Westlake Republican Women.

Ms. Walenta has served the Republican Party as a Precinct Chair and election judge. In addition, she has been actively involved with the Dallas Republican Career Women, the Bayview Century Club, and the Westlake Republican Women's Club. Through her service she continues to strengthen the Republican Party through candidate recruitment, training and election activities as well as advocating the GOP's common sense conservative philosophy of faith, family, free enterprise, and freedom.

Janie Walenta is a graduate of the University of Texas and the University of Dallas, and is currently employed a senior consultant with O'Neal Communications Management.

Today, I would like to recognize Janie Walenta's service and help making our community and our country a better place to live and to honor her as a strong Republican woman embodying the energy, vision and values of our party.

PRESTON ROBERT TISCH: GREAT CIVIC LEADER AND PHILANTHROPIST HAS DIED

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce into the record the obituary of Preston Robert Tisch written by Douglas Martin which appeared in The New York Times Wednesday, November 16, 2005. Mr. Tisch died at his home in Manhattan yesterday. He will be greatly missed by the people of New York City.

New Yorkers called Mr. Tisch "Bob." Bob Tisch was generous to New York City. He made his fortune in New York in real estate and other enterprises, but he shared his money, his impressive business talents and generous spirit by with thousands of people who would never meet him personally. Many New Yorkers, young and old were touched by his civic leadership and continue to be touched by his generosity even though he is gone from us physically.

In May 2005, Mr. Tisch was interviewed by Joan Baum, Ph.D. for the online edition of Education Update magazine. Dr. Baum

extolled Bob Tisch "extraordinary life of public service and philanthropy" mentioning his service as Postmaster general of the United States, his service in the '90s, at the request of then Mayor David Dinkins, as New York City's Ambassador to Washington, chairing NYC Public Private Initiatives, a partnership program to fund community programs, sitting on the board as a founding member of Citymeals-on-wheels, and as a driving force behind the new Giants Stadium.

Ms. Baum pointed out, that Bob Tisch cited among his proudest achievements "programs that have benefited public schools, particularly among them "Take the Field." This program is one that Bob Tisch founded in 2000 and has already restored 41 of 43 athletic fields for New York public schools. By May 2005, Bob Tisch's efforts had raised \$135 million in private and public funds for Take the Field. His goal was to rebuild athletic facilities in order to promote health, academic performance and pride.

In his interview, Bob Tisch acknowledged that Take The Field was as much about investment in youth and communities as it was about sports. When the schools' updated facilities are not being used by the schools they are used by the communities in which they are located. Ms. Baum wrote about her interview in May 2005: "Bob Tisch chuckles when he recalls how the owners of the two-story homes surrounding Forest Hills High School went out of their way to assure him they were going to 'watch over their field.' Other communities with new athletic facilities also watch over their fields.

Bob Tisch's interest in education is present in the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University and the Preston Robert Tisch Center for Hospitality, Tourism and Sports at NYU, which has recently added a Master's program.

I believe what was so special about Bob Tisch was the passion and love he brought to each of his projects. His ideas were brilliant, his projects successful and his profits in business high. But his distinguishing characteristics that were the true foundation of all his successes were his passion and his compassion.

Bob Tisch was one of-a-kind. I will miss him. New York City will miss him. What is wonderful to know is the students of New York City will continue to benefit from his ideas and his passion for education for a long, long time. Because of this I am positive his spirit is still with us and his soul is with God.

[From the New York Times, Nov. 16, 2005]

PRESTON ROBERT TISCH, OWNER OF LOEWS HOTELS AND GIANTS, DIES

(By Douglas Martin)

Preston Robert Tisch, who with his older brother built a multibillion-dollar business empire and who himself was postmaster general, half-owner of the New York Giants football team and leader of many of the city's top business groups, died yesterday at his home in Manhattan. He was 79 and also had a home in Harrison, N.Y.

The cause was a brain tumor, said Jeffrey Stewart, spokesman for the family.

Wellington Mara, the co-owner of the Giants with Mr. Tisch, died on Oct. 25.

Mr. Tisch was sometimes called "the other Tisch" to differentiate him from his older brother, Laurence, who was known as a no-nonsense financial strategist, partly from being the fiercely cost-conscious chairman of CBS from 1986 to 1995. He died in 2003.

But it was more often Preston Robert Tisch, universally known as Bob, who seized

the public view, first as a persuasive marketer for hotels and other companies owned by the Loews Corporation. As operations chief, his attention to detail once included personally hiring all bellmen for Loews hotels. He saw them as his best salesmen.

Mr. Tisch freely gave his talents to New York City. He served as Mayor David N. Dinkins "ambassador" to Washington; was chairman of host committees for the 1976 and 1980 Democratic National Conventions; and led the way in building a new convention center on Manhattan's West Side.

His last campaign, Take the Field, to revitalize the ragged athletic fields of the city's public high schools, raised \$140 million in donations. He said he could have written a check himself, but wanted a broad base of continuing support.

Mr. Tisch's enthusiasm for convening the city's movers and shakers began during the city's fiscal crisis in the 1970's with breakfasts at his Park Avenue hotel, the Regency. Major players in that municipal drama—the labor leader Victor Gotbaum, the real estate mogul Lewis Rudin and the investment banker Felix G. Rohatyn—were the first regulars.

"Stop over for breakfast, and you'll meet a lot of people," Mr. Tisch was famous for saying.

Many credit Mr. Tisch with coining the term "power breakfast," and the Regency continued to attract the likes of Beverly Sills, Henry Kissinger and Mr. Dinkins who said in an interview, "When you think of Bob Tisch, you smile."

In recent months, Mr. Tisch continued attending power breakfasts, as well as meetings at Giants Stadium and sports events there and elsewhere.

Among the city organizations he headed were the New York City Convention and Visitors Bureau, the New York City Partnership and the New York City Chamber of Commerce and Industry. When he joined with Mr. Rudin and other executives to form the Association for a Better New York in 1971, he and other soon-to-be billionaires posed delightedly with brooms.

His speaking schedule was so full that when President Ronald Reagan named him postmaster general in 1986, friends wondered if the job might really be "toastmaster general."

Larry and Bob Tisch were known for their generosity, not least their gifts to New York University where the medical center and arts school both bear the family name. So does a gallery at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the children's zoo in Central Park, not to mention namesake institutions at the University of Michigan, Tufts University and elsewhere.

The Tisch brothers add up to a quintessential Big Apple success story, beginning with playing stickball on the streets of Brooklyn and building to a financial conglomerate with annual sales of more than \$15.2 billion and assets of \$73.7 billion.

Their holding company, the Loews Corporation, ranks 127th on the Fortune 500, and has subsidiaries engaged in various kinds of insurance, the production and sale of cigarettes and watches, and the operation of hotels and oil and gas drilling rigs.

Preston Robert Tisch was born in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn on April 29, 1926, to parents who came from Russia. His father, Abraham Solomon, known as Al, owned a garment-manufacturing business and bought two summer camps in New Jersey, Laurel and Lincoln, which his wife, the former Sayde Brenner, helped him operate. As teenagers, Larry and Bob worked at the camps.

"My parents were middle class and like everybody else in Brooklyn at the time, they

worked hard and tried to move up the scale," Mr. Tisch said in an interview with *Newsday* in 1991.

The family moved every three years to get three months of free rent, a common practice even among the middle class. This meant Mr. Tisch attended DeWitt Clinton High School in the Bronx for one year and Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn for three.

Mr. Tisch joined the Army after briefly attending Bucknell, and enrolled at the University of Michigan after his discharge in 1944, earning a bachelor's degree in economics.

His wife, the former Joan Hyman, recalled him selling keychains for a dime, or two for 15 cents, in front of the university's football stadium. They married in 1948.

Besides his wife of 57 years, he is survived by two sons, Steven and Jonathan; and a daughter, Laurie.

In 1946, Larry, then a student at Harvard Law School, saw an advertisement for a sleepy resort in Lakewood, N.J., called Laurel-in-the-Pines, and persuaded his parents to put up \$125,000 to buy it. A family friend threw in another \$50,000 and took a one-fourth interest.

The Tischs refurbished the hotel, added amenities like a swimming pool and dreamed up promotional schemes that included importing three reindeer from Finland to pull sleighs in the snow. By the time Mr. Tisch joined the business in 1948, the hotel was prospering.

The family began investing profits in small hotel operations in Atlantic City, almost literally playing Monopoly on the boardwalk. They then took positions in Manhattan hotels. They typically found unprofitable properties, made improvements and raised rates. The brothers, personally and in business, could not have been closer. Their families socialized together, they went to temple together, played tennis together and even commuted to work together. In business, Larry made deals, Bob ran companies.

Bill Rudin, comparing the Tischs to his father Lewis and uncle Jack, the New York real estate magnates, said in an interview "They both sketched out a role that each of them wanted to play, and each ran with the ball."

In 1956, the brothers were ready to build their own hotel, the Americana at Bal Harbour, Fla. They did not borrow a cent to build the \$17 million hotel. It did \$12 million in business the first year, in large part because of Mr. Tisch's success in getting convention business.

With \$65 million from their thriving hotels, the brothers started buying into the Loews Corporation. An antitrust decree had separated the company's theaters from its filmmaking unit, and the brothers recognized that many of the theaters occupied prime real estate. By January 1961, they gained total control of Loews.

They knocked down the old Loews Lexington theater and used the site to build the 800-room Summit, the first hotel built in Manhattan in 30 years. They built the Americana, which at 50 stories was the world's tallest hotel upon completion in 1962. Other hotels followed, and Loews became a leading chain.

The Tischs decided to recast the company as a conglomerate. In 1968, they acquired Lorillard, then the nation's fifth-largest cigarette company. In 1974, they bought the CNA Financial Corporation, a nearly bankrupt Chicago-based insurance company. Within a few years, it had assets of \$16.5 billion and an A+ credit rating. In 1979, they purchased the troubled Bulova Watch and turned a profit.

By 1980, Loews had revenue of \$4.5 billion and earnings of \$206 million, and all its segments were doing well.

Luck mixed nicely with strategy. When the brothers sold the Traymore Hotel in Atlantic City in 1956, they retained a parcel of its land. They were able to take advantage of the casino boom that began in 1978.

In the early 1980's, the Tischs bought five supertankers for \$25 million when the oil market was depressed. The deal had no risk because even if oil prices did not rise, the scrap value of each tanker was \$5 million.

Mr. Tisch was postmaster general for almost two years, beginning in 1986. He used his marketing skill to come up with the idea of selling stamps by phone, and stressing sales of commemorative stamps, which are financially advantageous for the Postal Service because collectors seldom use them as postage.

Mr. Tisch, whose net worth was \$3.9 billion in 2003, according to *Forbes*, relished such hands-on personal involvement. Not only did he help found Meals-on-Wheels and serve as its president for 20 years, he many times personally delivered meals to elderly patrons.

His habit of working Sundays prevented him from seeing a professional football game until 1961, but he made up for it. After buying the Giants in 1991, he loved to attend practices and confer with coaches.

Mr. Tisch improved the Giants' business by sharpening marketing strategies, and, just as he had raised hotel rates, increasing ticket prices. He remarked that for all his business success and his oversight of the world's largest civilian work force at the Postal Service—and even his considerable civic and philanthropic contributions—he found people most admired his ownership of the Giants. That made sense to him.

"I want to be part of the fraternity and live out my life as a Giants owner," he said in 1991, shortly after acquiring a share of the team.

IN HONOR OF ANGEL GURRIA'S SELECTION AS THE NEXT SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE OECD

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) selecting Jose Angel Gurria Trevino as their next Secretary-General. Angel Gurria has been a good personal friend of mine for several years, and I am certain that his impressive leadership skills will be a tremendous asset to the OECD.

Previously, Gurria served as Mexico's Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1994 to 1998 and Minister of Finance and Public Credit from 1998 to 2000. During his time in these two posts, Gurria has worked diligently with me and many of my Congressional colleagues in promoting a better relationship with our neighbor to the South. In 1999, he was named Finance Minister of the Year by *Euromoney Magazine*. The following year, he was chosen Finance Minister of the World's Dream Cabinet by *World Link*, the magazine edited by the World Economic Forum. We are fortunate that all of the OECD member countries will now be able to benefit from Gurria's brilliance. He has done great work for his native Mexico and his economic abilities can now serve the thirty nations of the OECD.

I thank the current outgoing Secretary-General, Donald J. Johnston, for his ten years of service to the OECD. Gurria inherits a good

legacy created under Johnston, and I am confident that he will be able to lead the organization to even greater accomplishments.

I wish Gurria all the best for a successful start to his term leading the OECD. I congratulate him, his wife Dr. Lulu Quintana, and their three children on Gurria's honorable appointment.

HONORING THE DALLAS ROTARY CLUB

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to help celebrate two significant anniversaries of Rotary International. This year, Rotary International celebrates its 100th anniversary. From its humble roots in Chicago, Illinois, Rotary has grown into a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Since 1943, Rotary International has distributed more than \$1.1 billion to combat Polio, promote cultural exchanges and encourage community service.

I also want to recognize the Dallas Rotary Club for their 95 years of service to Dallas County. Throughout its history, the Dallas Rotary Club has achieved great success in carrying out the mission of Rotary International.

The Dallas Rotary Club has raised money for community programs and events, from the local bike rodeo and youth summer camps, to teacher award programs and as far away as supporting our troops fighting in Iraq and being housed in San Antonio. In addition, they strongly support organizations, such as the Children's Medical Center and Scottish Rite Hospital.

Through these initiatives, the Dallas Rotary Club exemplifies the values of service and charity that lie at the heart of American society. As one of the Congressional representatives of the members of this outstanding organization, it is my distinct pleasure to honor them today in the United States House of Representatives.

IN MEMORY OF MAURICE S. PAPRIN: NEW YORK REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER AND ADVOCATE, EDUCATOR AND PROMOTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the passing of a dear friend and prominent citizen of New York City, Mr. Maurice S. Paprin. Mr. Paprin was not only a successful real estate developer in New York City as president of Douglass Urban Corporation and other companies, but also a tireless advocate for affordable housing and comprehensive social dialogue. He personified the definition of "Renaissance man," having an affinity and talent for many fields, succeeding in all he touched.